

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NÚR AFSHÁN

VOL. 2.

FRIDAY:—JUNE 10th, 1898.

No. 23

Editorial.

NEWS AND NOTES.

Apart from Jesus of Nazareth the doctrine of the future life and of the immortality of the soul does not admit of definite proof. Even in the Old Testament the future life holds a comparatively small place and what men of faith see they see dimly and what they hope for is not always free from doubt. But in the New Testament the scene changes. *Life and immortality* are brought to light through the Gospel (II Tim 1: 10). The open tomb on the side of Mount Calvary proclaims to the world that the soul is immortal and assures the believer that there is a future life for him with Christ. Hope of immortality becomes a certainty to him who takes his stand by this open tomb. As the Apostle Peter says, We are "begotten again unto a *living* hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (I Pet. 1: 3). In Him the future has no terrors. There is no dark river to cross, no deep valley to enter, but rather an open door to pass through into the land of glory and that door is Christ.

Gulam Ahmed Qadiani opposes the suppression by Government of the book *Umihát ul Mominin* (Mothers of The Faithful) thus taking a position in opposition to other Muhammedans. We suspect he thinks that thereby, he will

find an open field for himself when he assaults the character of Jesus of Nazareth. And what if he does? The result is always the same when a man tries to spit upon the sun. We have pity for the man who tries to assail the only Unassailable and stain the Unstainable.

The Pastor at Ludhiana referred in last Sabbath evening's sermon to an association of Christians in Madras started by Mr. Sathianádban in which men in Government employment and in other walks of life obtained leave for one month and went out together to do Christian work. Such work has the testimony of having been very effective. Will young men and old men, too, in the Punjab not do this same kind of work.

There are many young men who in their College vacations could do a great deal of work. The field is open. There are hundreds of villages where they are needed. No Mission will stand in any one's way. "Muslah" of *The Masih* has had a good deal to say on this subject. Will he not lead in encouraging work of this kind in every station where there are Christian men, who can get leave?

We do not write this in order to call out replies as to how much is already being done. We are not of those (if there be such) who minimize present efforts. We know something of what is being done. At the same

time, there is so much more than we can do. Shall it not be tried?

The great fire in Peshawar on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week was very destructive. One thousand houses are said to have been burnt and the loss is estimated at a crore of rupees.

The monsoon forecast is fair. The way in which the weather prophet provides against has been proven false, whatever happens, by throwing in conditional clauses in his forecast is often highly amusing and is sometimes worthy of the descriptions given by fortune tellers.

H. W. Fry Esq., of the Industrial Missions and Society is in Bombay. A plan is under consideration for establishing Cotton Mills in India.

Eleven Christian students out of fifteen have taken their B. A. degree this year—six from the Lahore Forman Christian College, one from the Delhi St. Stephens College and five private—Their names are as follows:—

Mr. Joel Waiz Lall from the Delhi College—Stands first in the list in *English and Arabic*—
B.C. Ghose. Forman Christian College
J. C. Ghose " " "
S. N. Chandu Lall " " "
Sohan Lall Dewan " " "
Chuni Lall Banerji " " "
Mangat Rai " "



Mohan Lall Dewan Private
H. C. Sirkar "
Lalit Mohun Sirkar "
Bejor Mohun Sirkar "

Current Thought.

WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE.

Indian Witness.

Mr. Gladstone was born on the 29th December, 1809, and his life, therefore nearly spans the century. The century and the man have been fitting complements of each other, the one unprecedented of the momentous development of those forces which make for the weal or woe of humanity; the other pre-eminent for his masterful influence on the events that have constituted its history. Nearly seventy years of his life have been spent in the service of his country and humanity; and such years, and such service! Not the service of an hireling, but of one who in all things was the very personification of earnestness, to whom it was as the very breath of life to deal with what might be committed to his hands as a sacred trust.

Mr. Gladstone's career is not illustrative of the case of a self-made man, one who, from an unpromising beginning by his inherent qualities and the incentive of a great prize, raises himself to eminence; but it is an instance of a man who, born to all those advantages which wealth and rank place within his reach, rises superior to the temptations which come to him more seductively than to the other to abandon all ambition for a life of ease, or utilizes every advantage to the utmost until in due time he becomes one of the ripest scholars as well as one of the foremost statesmen of his age. Which of these is the more honourable it is hardly necessary to discuss, further than to remark that in Mr. Gladstone's career the element of personal profit is conspicuously absent.

The Gladstones are an ancient Scottish family, tracing their lineage away back to before the days of Wallace and Bruce. The ancestral home was in the Parish of Liberton, near the town of Biggar, in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. A long line of representatives held knightly rank, but in the seventeenth century the fortunes of the family were reduced to a low ebb, and rank and estates passed from their hands. A revival took place in the end of the eighteenth century in the person of Sir John Gladstone, the father of the deceased statesman, who from the humble position of a corn merchant's clerk ended his career as one of the

merchant princes of Liverpool. He is described as "a man of unbending will, of inexhaustible energy, of absolute self-reliance; a stern, strong, imperious nature preeminent in all those qualities which overcome obstacles, conquer fortune, and command the respect of the world." Much of the father's character was reproduced in the career of his illustrious son. One incident in the life of the father will not be without interest in connection with a similar occurrence in the life of the son. In his early life Sir John Gladstone had been a staunch supporter of the Whig party, and all his prejudices were in favour of the tenets of that party; but on the outbreak of the French revolution, when he saw how the Whig party in England sympathized with and even exulted in the excesses of the revolutionary parties in France, he was filled with indignation and disgust, and abandoning the Whig party threw in his lot with the Tories.

Like most men who have attained to eminence Mr. Gladstone owed much to his mother. She was a Highland lady, the daughter of Provost Robertson, of Dingwall, in the country of Ross, and was a woman of much sweetness and piety.

Few men have had such advantages in their home life as Mr. Gladstone. It is described as having been "a home pre-eminently calculated to mould the thoughts and direct the course of an intelligent and receptive nature. There was the father's masterful will and keen perception, the sweetness and piety of the mother, wealth with all its substantial advantages and few of its mischiefs, a strong sense of the value of money, a rigid avoidance of extravagance and excess; everywhere a strenuous purpose in life, constant employment, and concentrated ambition." There will be few who will deny that in every stage of his after career, Mr. Gladstone was true to the teaching and training of such a home life.

After a short period of private tuition at the Vicarage of Seaforth, near Liverpool, Mr. Gladstone began his real educational career at Eton which he entered after the summer holidays of 1821. Most of his contemporaries—and many of them became famous men—bear testimony to the fact that he was, while at Eton, pre-eminently God-fearing, orderly and conscientious. Bishop Hamilton of Salisbury, says of him: "At Eton I was a thoroughly idle boy; but I was saved from some worse things by getting to know Gladstone." Another school-fellow says, "Gladstone turned his glass upside down and declined to drink a coarse toast proposed, according to custom, at an annual dinner." And another authority says "He was not only

pure-minded and courageous, but humane. He stood forth as the champion of some wretched pigs, which it was the custom to torture at Eton on Ash Wednesday, and when bantered by his schoolfellows for his humanity, offered to write his reply in good round hand upon their faces." He was a most industrious student, and was not content with undergoing the prescribed curriculum, but supplemented the ordinary business of the school by studying mathematics in the holidays. Before he left Eton he had thoroughly imbibed the idea of making intellectual work the goal of his ambition.

His career at Oxford, which he entered in 1828, was equally honourable and promising. He was a model undergraduate, and the great influence of his character and talents was used with mainly resolution against the riotous conduct of some of the other undergraduates whose brutality had caused the death of one of their number in 1831. His chosen friends were all industrious and steady men; and although a survey of the list of his contemporaries gives the impression of a calibre of intellectualism, which was Titanic in its strength, not one of these seems to have surpassed Mr. Gladstone in the final contest, he having secured the unusual distinction of a "double first," the highest honour the University could bestow upon him. He left Oxford in 1831 with a reputation which marked him out for success in whatever career he chose to adopt. He was already known as an eloquent speaker, powerful in debate, and possessed of a skill in clothing his rhetoric with all the minutiae of adornment which has been characteristic of his oratory during the whole of his public life. Educated in the best school of Toryism, he had imbibed the highest principles of the party, and was as thorough a partisan in the application of these principles to the civil events of his time as any party leader could desire to have ready to his hand. He had the highest reverence for the sacredness of law, for existing institutions, dreading innovation, and regarding the Church and the Throne as inseparably associated by Divine ordinance.

Had Mr. Gladstone adopted the profession for which he had the greatest predilection, it is believed that he would have entered the Church, but the influence of his father was thrown into the scale in favour of politics, and in the December, 1823, he presented himself to the electors of Newark as one of the Tory candidates, being returned at the head of the poll.

He took his seat in Parliament in January 1833, and it is rather remarkable that his maiden speech in the House should have been devoted to a

defence of his father against whom an attack had been made in connection with an alleged high rate of mortality among the slaves on one of his West Indian plantations. This incident occurred during the debate on the question of abolition of slavery in the British colonies, which then engaged the attention of the House; and though the young man was greatly handicapped by being placed in such a position, he acquitted himself so well that the impression left upon the House was that a great career was before him. That career is written in the history of England. His talents early marked him out for high office, and the year following his entrance into political life found him installed as a junior lord of the Treasury, to be promoted a little later as Under-Secretary for the Colonies. In 1841, on the return of his party to power he accepted office as vice-president of the Board of Trade, Master of the Mint, and a privy councillor. In 1843 he became President of the Board of Trade and a member of the Cabinet. It was while holding this office that he introduced into Parliament the measure by which railway companies were compelled to run one third class train each day, to run at a speed of not less than twelve miles an hour including stoppages, to be provided with seats protected against the weather, and at a fare not to exceed one penny per mile—a measure which was designed for the benefit of the working classes, but has at the same time, been one of the most important factors in the development of railway traffic all over the world. In 1845 the Tory Government introduced a measure with the object of increasing the grant to the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth, which led to Mr. Gladstone's resignation, as the measure was opposed to certain principles which he had advocated in his book called "Church and State." Some people thought that this resignation was an unnecessary step on Gladstone's part, but this did not influence him in any way, and he remained out of office during the remainder of the time his party continued in power. It was during this time that his attention was turned to the consideration of the question of free trade.

Changes of Government again led to his resuming office as Colonial Secretary, under his former leader, Sir Robert Peel. It was during his tenure of this office that the Corn Laws were repealed. This was a Liberal measure introduced by a Tory Government, a *volte-face* feat to which the Tory party is somewhat prone. Mr. Gladstone was cordially in sympathy with the measure but as it was not one which could find favour with the electors of Newark, who had returned him to Parliament

he considered he could not conscientiously continue to represent them, and so resigned his seat.

He now placed himself at the disposal of the University of Oxford, and was returned as one of its representatives. Almost the first measure that he had to deal with however in the new Parliament, was one in which his sympathies brought him into antagonism with the principles of his constituency, as it provided for the removal of the disability which prevented Jews from sitting in parliament. As a Tory and a Churchman it was his duty to have opposed the measure, but although it was a Liberal measure he gave it his warmest support. He did not feel called on this occasion to resign his seat, and the University did not visit his inconsistency with any token of its disapproval. In 1848 he supported a similar measure for removing the disabilities under which Roman Catholics were placed. These incidents revealed the leavening process which was at work, undermining the old Tory teaching, and drawing the young politician nearer to the ranks of Liberalism.

It would be impossible in this brief notice of the illustrious statesman to attempt to chronicle even the most important events in his career. It will be sufficient to say that he held nearly every office which it is possible for a subject of the Crown to hold, and the highest office of all, the Premiership of England he administered three times. For each of these offices he was more than fitted; his genius dignified every step of promotion; and the term of each office was signalized by some measure for the benefit of the country which adorns the statute book of England still.

It would be idle to expect that the verdict of Mr. Gladstone's countrymen as to his character will be a unanimous verdict. Between the callow lad of twenty-three essaying to warn the politicians of England about the danger of too hasty emancipation of the West Indian slave, and the aged statesman, with prophetic solemnity and as it were with his dying breath, pleading with the people of England for what he believed to be justice for Ireland, there is a mighty transition, and some people cannot forgive the weakness which they consider Mr. Gladstone displayed in the various stages which led to the complete transition. There has perhaps never been a statesman who in following "his conscience as his God", has been under such sad necessity of severing friendship which were very dear. But there was no stage of the transition which was not entirely honourable to the man, evidencing the highest moral courage and broadest

Christian. To those who speculate in the devious changes of politics, and must find a motive for every action, nothing is more confusing than a line of conduct which is inspired by absolute purity and honesty, and it was the opinion of one who was himself a master of statecraft, that if to be too honest was a defect Mr. Gladstone had that defect to the fullest extent.

As a party leader he was perhaps less successful in rousing the enthusiasm of his followers than some of his brilliant contemporaries, but in view of the affection which he inspired both outside and inside the House, it is necessary that this surmise should be submitted with reservation. Still the fruits of heredity were a vigorous growth in his life, and his imperiousness, his inability to conciliate the dissenting forces of his party, and his indifference to subordinate opinion when once he had made up his mind to a certain line of action, were always a source of uneasiness to his friends, and finally led to the rebellion which shattered the Liberal party.

His foreign policy might readily be found fault with by those who argue that it savoured too much of the little England policy, although there was no department of his executive work in which even his opponents might allow that he was more consistent. In his early career he had raised his voice against England, by the action of her statesmen being always thrust into prominence as the domineering factor in European politics, and argued that if she was to maintain her position as a power in Europe, it must be founded on a reputation for moderation and justice. From this standard he never varied; and when the day came that the position of England as a military power on the continent waned because of the millions of armed men who sprang ready armed from the soil all over Europe; the soundness of Mr. Gladstone's advice must have been recognized if not publicly admitted.

His war record is probably the least brilliant of his unceasing toil. It is natural that it should be so, because, both as one of the advanced economists of any time, as well as an earnest Christian, he always had a keen recognition of the wastefulness and iniquity of war. But when his character comes to be delineated by the proper hand, it will be found that he was greater for the wars he averted or interrupted than for those he did not oppose. And now that there are mutterings of the storm that is about to descend on England, let us hope that those who have hitherto looked askance at his principles will recognize that by his moral courage in opposing the wars that might have been thrust upon him, he did the work of a true patriot, conserving her strength and resources so

that she now may face as she has done before a Europe in arms, if not with tranquillity at least without fear.

Telegrams.

London, May 31.

The *Standard's* Washington correspondent telegraphs that Mr. Long, Secretary of the Navy, has cabled to Admiral Schley that under no circumstances is he to permit Admiral Cerveras to escape from Santiago de Cuba. Admiral Schley is further instructed to capture or destroy the Spanish fleet.

The *New York Herald* states that Government expects a battle to take place between Admirals Schley's and Cerveras' squadrons within the next 24 hours.

The American steamer "Florida" returned to Key West, having successfully, landed in Cuba a force of 400 Cubans under General Lacroix, together with a quantity of arms and munitions.

London, May 31.

The British Government formally assumed the lease of Wei-hai-Wei on 21st May, when the British flag was hoisted there.

London, May 31.

A memorial has been forwarded to Lord George Hamilton signed by over one thousand manufacturers and bankers of Manchester, in which the memorialists deprecate the vague and limited nature of the reference to the Indian Currency Committee, and declare that the Committee inadequately represents the interests affected. Lord George Hamilton's reply is a repetition of his reply to the memorial from the London bankers.

London, May 31.

Negotiations between Canada and the United States have resulted in the definite agreement for the appointment of a Commission in Canada with reference to all subjects of controversy between the two countries and to frame a treaty for their settlement. The Commission will probably meet this summer in Quebec.

London, June 1.

A despatch from Port au Prince, Haiti, states that the squadron of fourteen ships under Admiral Sampson commenced a fierce bombardment of the forts and harbour of Santiago de Cuba yesterday afternoon.

The *New York World* publishes a telegram, stating that two Spanish torpedo vessels made a desperate but unsuccessful attempt, about midnight on Sunday, to destroy the American vessels now employed in blockading the port.

The Spanish ironclad "Colon" guarded the entrance to the harbour, and replied to the Americans, who were repulsed and admit that one of their auxiliary cruisers was seriously damaged, but claim that they have silenced and destroyed the principal Spanish fort and killed many who were manning the batteries. Nevertheless no official despatches of the engagement have yet been received by the Navy Department at Washington.

A severe monetary crisis has arisen in Spain. The Cortes has passed a Bill prohibiting export of coined or uncoined silver.

Karachi, June 1.

Returns for the 1st show cases 25, deaths 18, totals to date, cases 2,643, deaths 2,079. Mr. Cross states that his wife and daughter, who died of plague recently at Calcutta left Karachi last January and had been in Calcutta ever since.

Calcutta, June 1.

Three plague seizures and three deaths were officially declared yesterday. Inoculation is making slow progress in these days. The number for the past week is very limited. No attacks or deaths reported to-day.

Bombay, June 2.

There were 11 attacks and 7 deaths from plague reported in Bombay yesterday.

London, June 2.

Russia intends deepening and enlarging the harbour of Port Arthur.

London, June 2.

M. Deschanel (Moderate) has been elected Provisional President of the French Chamber of Deputies, having secured 282 votes against M. Brisson (Radical), who obtained 278 votes. The result of the voting shows the weakness of the Cabinet, which supported M. Deschanel's candidature.

London, June 2.

According to a telegram from New York the American squadron withdrew after attacking Santiago, but has now returned, and a fresh bombardment is expected.

Despatches from Havana, received both in New York and Madrid, state the ironclad "Colon" was the only Spanish war-ship at Santiago during Tuesday's bombardment and that the other ships of Admiral Cerveras's squadron were not there during the attack.

It is explained in New York that Admiral Schley's sole object in bombarding Santiago on Tuesday was to prevent the erection of fortifications at the entrance of the harbour and when the new defences were destroyed, he sheered off with his squadron; it was no question of being repulsed.

The latest report says that 3,000 insurgents are attacking Santiago from the land side, and that a bloody battle is proceeding.

Karachi, June 2.

Returns for the 2nd show cases 26, deaths 20; totals to date, cases 2,669, deaths 2,099.

Calcutta, June 2.

One plague seizure and one death on Wednesday.

Bombay, June 3.

There were two attacks and eight deaths from plague reported in Bombay yesterday.

London, June 3.

Admiral Schley officially reports that there is no reasonable doubt about Admiral Cerveras's fleet being inside Santiago, and that the object of Tuesday's bombardment was to discover the strength of the batteries.

No American ship, he adds, was hit, nor was anybody hurt.

Reuter's special correspondent, who is on board the American flagship, reports that the bombardment proved that Santiago is well fortified with heavy guns, which are using smokeless powder.

London, June 3.

The *Times* states that an infantry brigade under Colonel Lyttelton is going to the Nile and will probably consist of the 1st Grenadiers; 2nd Rifle Brigade; 1st Warwickshires, and 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers.

The 21st Lancers, Northumberland Fusiliers and 32nd Field Battery of Artillery will also be included in the brigade, which is intended for the Khartoum expedition, and which will number 20,000 men.

It is reported that the Dervishes have evacuated Shubak, which is the most defensible position between Berber and Khartoum.

The Khalifa is concentrating his forces near Omdurman.

London, June 3.

One thousand natives have surprised a force of three hundred Russian troops who were encamped at Andijan in Ferghana. Twenty Russians were killed and eighteen wounded. Such an occurrence has not been known for many years.

Karachi, June 3.

Returns for the 3rd show cases 17, deaths 16; totals to date, cases 2,68, deaths 2,115.

Calcutta, June 8.

Four seizures and three deaths plague were officially recorded on Thursday, to day four seizures are reported.

London, June 4.

The American fleet renewed the bombardment of Santiago for two hours yesterday morning: the ship "Merrimac," which in the reports received is variously described as an auxiliary cruiser and big collier, entered the harbour and succeeded in passing the first line of torpedoes. The Spaniards then fired torpedoes, striking the "Merrimac," and sinking her instantly. The American despatch on the action says the "Merrimac" was manned by volunteers, and was sent into the harbour for the express purpose of blocking the channel and that none of her crew perished.

A despatch from Admiral Sampson, who is now commanding the American squadron at Santiago, confirms the previous despatch that the ship "Merrimac" was sent into the harbour to block the channel. Admiral Sampson's report, however, states that she was sunk by the volunteer crew, numbering eight, and not by the Spaniards, and the crew are prisoners in the hands of the Spaniards. The despatch adds that Admiral Cerveras with six Spanish warships is inside the harbour, and is unable to evade capture or destruction.

It is reported that fighting was renewed to-day at Santiago, the Americans landing a strong force a few miles along the coast; the insurgents simultaneously closing in upon the town.

Reports have reached New York, stating that an American force of five thousand men has landed near Santiago this morning under cover of the fire from some of Admiral Sampson's ships, and were joined by three thousand insurgents under the leadership of Garcia.

The rest of the American squadron simultaneously renewed the bombardment of Santiago forts.

Karachi, June 6.

Returns for the 6th show cases 17, deaths 15; totals to date, cases 1,761, deaths 2,162.

Bombay, June 7.

There were 8 attacks from plague reported yesterday, including 6 old cases, which had been under inquiry, and 4 deaths.

SUPPLEMENT.

Contributed articles on important themes and items of news will be thankfully received. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Nur Afshan, Ludhiana.

RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Combined Paper (Urdu Rs 2/8, English Supplement Rs. 1/— Rs 3/8
Supplement-Rs. 1/11. (Postage As 13 —Rs. 7/8
Two copies or more in one cover Rs 2/2 and Rs. 3/2 each
Subscription rate in England 4s. and 6s.
America \$1. and \$1. 50